



Governor Malloy and the General Assembly significantly increased the State's financial commitment to brownfield remediation, allocating \$40m of bond funding for the next two fiscal years (an increase from \$30m in the last biennial budget). This will allow our programs to continue to take on new sites and new projects in partnership with municipalities, developers and end users.

Importantly, both chambers also unanimously passed HB6830 (<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/ACT/PA/2015PA-00193-R00HB-06830-PA.htm>) which DECD, DEEP and the Brownfields Working Group worked together on this session. The bill makes some important improvements to the State's brownfield programs that will allow us to take on more sites more efficiently and more effectively.

Changes include:

- Authorizing the creation of a new program modeled after the EPA's Areawide Planning grant program (which we will be calling the Brownfield Areawide Revitalization (BAR) Grant program). This will allow municipalities to put together comprehensive plans for the remediation and redevelopment of clusters of brownfield sites in their communities.
- Authorizing DECD, in consultation with DEEP, to expand by up to 50% previously-awarded grant funds (within program caps, and only for eligible expenses) when there are legitimate cleanup cost overruns (i.e., discovery of an additional underground storage tank) or if a different remediation method is identified that would provide superior environmental benefits. Prior to this bill, grant recipients would need to wait for the next competitive round of funding, creating logistical and financial challenges for these projects.
- Expanding the State-owned brownfields initiative (funded in the 2011 special session with \$20m of bond funding separate from the main grant and loan program) to include formerly State-owned brownfields.
- Exempting projects funded by loans with only hazardous building materials issues (i.e., no soil issues, to DEEP's satisfaction) from being required to enter a Voluntary Cleanup Program (which only applies to soil/groundwater and so this was asking projects to join a program not designed to address their issues)
- Increasing the authorized size of loans to \$4m per project (the same size as our grant program) and eliminating the ability of municipalities to loan the proceeds of grants to developers (which is administratively burdensome and now unnecessary with the higher loan limit)
- Updating the Phase 1 reporting required to reflect modifications to ASTM standards, which removes an ambiguity within the existing legislation

Together, these program changes and this significant increase in funding represent another leap forward for our efforts to revitalize brownfields and return them to productive use within our communities.



Department of Economic and
Community Development

Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development



We look forward to continuing to working with you to invest in new projects and sites as we work hard to be responsible stewards of the resources the Governor and Assembly have provided.

Best,

Tim Sullivan
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development